

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5245

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG KS
SUBJ: ROK VIEW OF NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

REF: SEOUL 5075 (NOTAL)

1. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICER JUNE 19, FOREIGN
MINISTRY OFFICIALS GAVE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON ROKG VIEW OF
NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN BELGRADE.

2. ACCORDING TO UN DIVISION DIRECTOR CHANG, ROKG NO LONGER
CONSIDERS AVOIDANCE OF KOREAN QUESTION AT NON-ALIGNED MEETING
A PRACTICABLE GOAL, GIVEN INCLUSION OF THE ISSUE IN THE
PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND IN THE HAVANA COMMUNIQUE. THEY WOULD
LIKE IF POSSIBLE TO HAVE DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE AT BELGRADE,
BOTH IN DEBATE AND COMMUNIQUE, REFLECT A BALANCED VIEW OF THE
KOREAN QUESTION AND HOPE THAT ROK'S FRIENDS AT THE
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MEETING WILL BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING TO THAT END.
ASKED IF THEY WERE PROPOSING SPECIFIC LANGUAGE, CHANG
WAS EVASIVE, BUT VICE MINISTER YI MUN-YONG IN SEPARATE
CONVERSATION SAID ROKG IS CIRCULATING TEXT WHICH IT SUGGESTS
OTHERS PROPOSE FOR ADOPTION OR DRAW-ON IN DISCUSSIONS.

3. CHANG SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR

ROK TO AFFECT LANGUAGE ADOPTED, GIVEN THE RATHER UNSTRUCTURED AND RAPID-FIRE PROCEEDINGS OF MOST NAM MEETINGS, AS WELL AS THE PRESUMABLY NOT VERY FRIENDLY CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE HOST GOVERNMENT. HE THOUGHT A MORE REALISTIC AIM WOULD BE TO ACHIEVE A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS REGARDING THE LANGUAGE THE ROK EXPECTS WILL BE PRESENTED. CHANG SAID THAT AT COLOMBO THEY GOT 25 RESERVATIONS AND THEY HOPE THIS TIME TO INCREASE THAT NUMBER, WITH LUCK PERHAPS TO 35 OR SO.

4. A BASIC PROBLEM FOR THE ROKG OF COURSE IS THEIR LACK OF ANY REPRESENTATION IN BELGRADE. THEY HAVE INSTRUCTED THE ROK EMBASSY IN COLOMBO TO ASK THE SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT AS CURRENT CHAIRMAN TO INTERCEDE WITH THE YUGOSLAVS TO PERMIT AN OBSERVER FROM THE ROK TO BE IN BELGRADE AT THE TIME OF THE MEETING. THERE HAS BEEN NO REPLY TO THIS REQUEST, HOWEVER, AND CHANG IS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ITS SUCCESS. HE ASKED PARTICULARLY IF THE U.S. COULD OBTAIN ANY INFORMATION ON LIKELY YUGOSLAV RESPONSE, ON THIS SUBJECT AND ON KOREAN ISSUE GENERALLY AT THE CONFERENCE.

5. IN THE MEANTIME, THE ROKG IS ACCELERATING ITS REPRESENTATIONS TO MEMBER NATIONS. IN AFRICA THEY ARE TRYING TO GET THEIR VIEWS PRESENTED BEFORE THE VARIOUS FOREIGN MINISTERS BECOME TIED UP WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY MEETING IN JULY IN KHARTOUM. THEY ARE ALSO CONCERNED

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THAT SAUDI ARABIA MAY NOT ATTEND, AND ARE MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO THAT END SINCE THE SAUDIS PROVED TO BE HELPFUL ALLIES IN PREVIOUS NAM GATHERINGS. FORMER VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS YUN, NOW ENROUTE TO DJIBOUTI, WAS REPORTEDLY ENCOURAGED BY THE RESPONSES HE RECEIVED IN THE MALDIVES AND BAHRAIN, AND TO SOME EXTENT BY THE ATTITUDE IN QATAR ALTHOUGH CHANG INDICATED THEY WERE LESS CONFIDENT ABOUT THE LATTER.

6. ONE RECENT DEVELOPMENT ENCOURAGES KOREANS HOWEVER, VICE FOREIGN MINISTER YI ADVISED DCM LATE JUNE 19 THAT VISITING ZAIREAN PUBLIC INFORMATION MINISTER MKOLO WA MPOMBO HAS SAID ZAIRE INTENDS TO ATTACK CUBA STRONGLY AT MEETING, RAISING POSSIBILITY THAT SESSION MAY BE HEAVILY PREOCCUPIED WITH ISSUE OF CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA. KOREANS HOPEFUL THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT WILL IMPROVE THEIR CHANCES OF FRUSTRATING NORTH KOREAN INTENTIONS BY CENTERING ATTENTION OF FULL MEETING ON THE CUBAN ISSUE AND LEAVING LITTLE, IF ANY, TIME FOR OTHER MATTERS.

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